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Letter No. 2330

September 17, 1987

**CROP PRODUCTION  
HIGHLIGHTS**

CURRENT

The production of corn for grain is forecast by the U.S. Department of Agriculture at 7 billion 140 million bushels, down 13 percent from last year. Sorghum grain production is forecast at 757 million bushels, down 20 percent from 1986. Soybean production is forecast at 1 billion 960 million bushels, down 2 percent from 1986. All wheat production is forecast at 2 billion 110 million bushels, up 1 percent from last year.

**USSR GRAIN  
CROP ESTIMATE**

The 1987 Soviet grain crop estimate continues at 205 million tons including 78 million 500 thousand tons of wheat, 111 million 500 thousand coarse grains, and 15 million miscellaneous grains and pulses, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The total grain area estimate remains at 290 million acres. All unchanged from last month.

**USSR IMPORT  
ESTIMATE REDUCED**

As of early September, grain purchases by the USSR for delivery during 1987/88 from all origins are estimated at only around 5 million tons, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Some earlier reports of sales activity have yet to be followed by actual shipments, raising some questions as to whether sales have actually taken place. Imports are currently estimated at 28 million tons, the smallest since 1978/79. Wheat imports are estimated at 17 million tons, fractionally above the 1986/87 level. Coarse grain imports in 1987/88 are projected to total only 10 million tons, the smallest since 1978/79. The bulk of USSR coarse grain trade should be covered by various agreements with major suppliers, the U.S., Canada and Argentina.

**FINAL RULES FOR  
CONSERVATION**

Final rules clarifying the requirements of the conservation provisions of the Food Security Act of 1985 were issued by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Farmers can retain eligibility for USDA program benefits by installing a conservation on highly erodible cropland and by not converting wetlands. Farmers must have a conservation plan for highly erodible cropland by Jan. 1, 1990. It must be fully implemented by Jan. 1, 1995. For help with plans, contact the local SCS or ASCS office.

# WORLD PRODUCTION OILSEEDS

The world oilseeds production for 1987/88 is estimated by the U.S. Department of Agriculture to still be a record 202 million 200 thousand tons, but down 500 thousand or less than 1 percent from last month, but up 3 percent from last year. U.S. oilseed production is estimated at 60 million 800 thousand tons, down 1 million 300 thousand or 2 percent from last month and down less than 1 percent from last year. World soybean production is estimated at a record 100 million 900 thousand tons, up less than 1 percent from last year. U.S. production is estimated at 53 million 300 thousand tons, down 2 percent from last month and last year.

# WORLD WHEAT PRODUCTION

The world wheat production for 1987/88 is estimated by the U.S. Department of Agriculture at 505 million 600 thousand metric tons, down 3 million 700 thousand, or less than one percent from last month and down 4 percent from last year's record harvest. U.S. production is estimated at 57 million 500 thousand tons, up 1 percent from last year. European Community production is estimated at 75 million 700 thousand tons, up 6 percent from last year. East Europe production, 39 million 300 thousand tons, down less than 1 percent from last year. Canada, 25 million tons, down 20 percent from last year's record harvest.

# WORLD COTTON

The world cotton consumption for 1987/88 is estimated by the U.S. Department of Agriculture at 82 million 300 thousand bales. World cotton production for 1987/88 is estimated at 77 million 500 thousand bales. U.S. production is estimated at 12 million 800 thousand bales. Foreign output, 64 million 700 thousand bales. The total U.S. cotton exports for the marketing year 1986/87 reached 6 million 680 thousand bales, compared to only 1 million 970 thousand bales in 1985/86.

# CHINA IMPORTING SOYBEAN OIL

China's soybean oil imports continue at an unprecedented high level, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. China appears to be taking advantage of low world prices. The 1986/87 marketing year estimate has been revised to 400,000 tons and the 1987/88 forecast to 350,000 tons. Most of the oil comes from Brazil, Argentina and Spain.

# DAIRY TERMINATION PROGRAM

An estimated 17,900 head of dairy cattle were slaughtered in federally-inspected plants during the week ending August 29 as a result of the Dairy Termination Program, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The total cattle slaughtered under the program from April 1, 1986 through August 29, 1987 is an estimated 1,217,600 head.



FROM OUR  
TELEVISION  
SERVICE

WEATHER AND CROP UPDATE...Forest fires are causing problems in the West due to dry weather, while rains are bringing relief to some areas in the East. USDA chief meteorologist Dr. Norton Strommen offers the latest weather and crop update for the U.S. DeBoria Janifer interviews. (281)

CURRENT CROP PRODUCTION REPORT...Production of U.S. corn for grain is expected to total about seven billion bushels, 13 percent lower than last year's figures. USDA economist Sam Evans examines the world agricultural supply and demand estimates. Vic Powell interviews. (282)

SUGARS AND SWEETENERS OUTLOOK...U.S. sugar deliveries are forecast to increase two percent to nearly eight million tons, the first increase in a decade. USDA economist David Harvey talks about the major factors behind the increase. Vic Powell interviews. (283)

SERVICE GROWTH IN RURAL AREAS...Opportunities for expanding service growth in rural America play a major role in the rural economic development effort currently underway. William Gillis an extension economist with Penn State University talks about expanding retail and service business opportunities in rural towns. DeBoria Janifer interviews. (284)

RURAL HOSPITALS...Joe Pankau with the University Illinois takes a look at how financial problems of farmers and rural areas has affected rural hospitals. Gary Beaumont interviews. (285)

FROM OUR RADIO  
SERVICE

AGRICULTURE USA 1581...(Weekly 13 1/2 min documentary) The more than ample grain supplies around the world have made for some startling changes in the stature of the U.S. as a farm export leader. George Holmes explores this subject with several experts.

AGRIITAPE/FARM PROGRAM REPORT #1570...(Weekly reel of news features) USDA news highlights; cotton exports climbing; a US/USSR scientific exchange; swampbuster details; Iraq holds promise.

CONSUMER TIME #1061...(Weekly reel of 2 1/2 min features) Middle age spread; Getting wackey for volunteerism; Carrots for the heart; Lawn disasters; Lawn spruce-up.

USDA RADIO NEWS SERVICE...Wed., Sept. 23, Poultry Production, World Agriculture Outlook; Thurs., Sept. 24, World Tobacco Situation; Fri., Sept. 25, Rice Outlook, Meat Production; Tues., Sept. 29, Crop and Weather Update; Wed., Sept. 30, Grain Stocks, Hogs and Pigs; and Agricultural Prices.

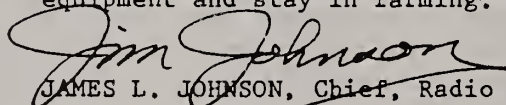
OFF MIKE

Jeff Stewart is the new farm broadcaster at WIBX/NE Ag Net, Utica, NY. He took Jerry Reed's place who left to work with the New York Beef Council. Jeff had been at KOLM, Rochester, MN ... Emery Kleven is the new farm broadcaster at KDHL, Fairbault, MN. He replaces Rod Johnson who left for a job in private industry. Emery was a broadcaster at a station near Faribault. Incidentally, Emery also picked upon an interesting postmark on our August 17 newsletter. It was dated September 3, 1999. No, next year is not the year 2000, and yes, the mail unit is working on the problem ... Got a call earlier this week from Joe Cornely (WRFD, Columbus, OH) but no hint he was coming to town, so it was a pleasant surprise when he walked through the door two days later. He had several items of interest, not the least of which was the fact that he received the Heath Cooper Rigdon Broadcaster Award at the national Soil Conservation Society of America meeting. Incidentally, the Society changed its name at the convention to Soil and Water Conservation

Farm Broadcasters Letter  
Radio and Television, Rm. 410-A  
Office of Information, OGPA  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Washington, D.C. 20250-1300

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Society. Joe also reported WRFD celebrates its 40th anniversary on Sept. 28 and, Joe will broadcast his hour-long noon farm show from the Old Worthington Inn where the station first went on the air. And the station will change its afternoon show to a call in "gabfest" with former WRFD farm broadcasters, including: Bob Miller, Dave Russell, Ed Johnson, Bob Ziegler, Clyde Keathley, Dave Branham, and Johnny Martin. Should be interesting! Also, Joe reported that WRFD will be honored at the 3-day Farm Science Review farm show as being a participant in the show since it opened 25 years ago ... Wayne Jenkins (Morning Ag Report, Indianapolis, IN) reports on an interesting demonstration at Purdue University's Ag Day of equipment designed to help handicapped farmers continue to operate equipment and stay in farming. Most interesting, he said.



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